note the following messages and date claimers. Mrs Bannah is recovering well after her shoulder surgery and we’ll see her back in term two. I look forward to continuing to work with the Somerset Hills School Community over the rest of this term. Please don’t hesitate to contact me in the office with any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Emma Vine

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kiki in Year 6 on qualifying for the U11s North District Netball team which will be competing in the Regional Carnival.

She will be competing indoors at the Boondall Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 27 April. We are proud of you Kiki!

WHOLE SCHOOL DISCO

The theme for the Whole School Disco on Friday 11 March is ‘Come as Your Favourite Animal’. We look forward to seeing some great costumes. Pizza, drinks, iceblocks and snacks will be available during the Disco. The Disco begins at 5:30 pm and ends at 7:30 pm. School-aged siblings and friends are welcome to attend. The cost is $3.00 each or $10.00 for a family of 4 or more. All children MUST be supervised by an adult.

P&C REQUEST

The P&C have requested permission to use parent/carers email addresses. Any parents who would like to receive information from the P & C and who haven’t given us their email address, please contact the Administration Office as soon as possible.

P & C NEWS

1. Indigenous Parents & Carers Meeting, Monday March 14 from 3.15pm. Meet at the Library. Afternoon tea will be supplied. All interested staff and families are encouraged to come along.

2. Buddy Benches – our new Buddy Benches have arrived and will be installed soon. A big thank-you goes out to Ashley’s dad, Therance, who recently painted the benches and has looked after all of the School’s graphic design work in recent times including the new logo.

3. Helpers needed! On March 19 we will be holding a BBQ and cake stall to raise funds (for classroom air-conditioning) during the Council election. We need helpers to donate baked items (drop-off at canteen on 18th) or on the day, people to help for an hour or two on the Election day with the BBQ or cake stall. Please email a.mcniven@qut.edu.au or text 0437308791 if you can help!

4. The SHSS P&C Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8 at 7pm in the Library – all welcome. A new Executive Committee will be elected – see the school Noticeboards for more info.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Uniform Shop would be grateful for donations of second-hand uniforms. Small sizes are particularly needed.

JUNIOR YEARS EASTER HAT PARADE

Junior 1, 2 and 3 are holding a magical and musical Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 24 March. Everyone is invited. The Parade will be held in the school Hall and will commence at 9:30 am. There will be a Morning Tea following the Parade for students in Junior 1, 2 and 3 and their families. All students in those classes are asked to bring $2.00 to the office by 9:30 am on Friday 18 March to cover the cost of the food. NO late payments can be accepted.

SWIMMING NEWS 11 AND 18 MARCH

It’s been wonderful to get to know the staff, students, parents and wider community of Somerset Hills State School over the past two weeks. Thank you for welcoming me in to your school community. It’s fantastic to see the great teaching and learning occurring in all classes. Please refer to the attached class news pages to find out what your child is learning about this term.

There are also many school events in the next few weeks, so please note the following messages and date claimers. Mrs Bannah is recovering well after her shoulder surgery and we’ll see her back in term two. I look forward to continuing to work with the Somerset Hills School Community over the rest of this term. Please don’t hesitate to contact me in the office with any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Emma Vine
Due to the school pool being used for Zone Swimming Championships, there will be no class swimming lessons and no Senior 1 and 2 free swim on those days. Mrs North will be making alternative arrangements for Junior 2. Families will be advised as soon as possible.

**2016 INTER-HOUSE CROSS - COUNTRY CARNIVAL 16 March**

All students are encouraged to participate in our annual Inter-house Cross Country Carnival on Wednesday 16 March. A full timetable will be provided closer to the date, but the Carnival will take place between 9:00 – 10:30 am.

Parent helpers are sought to help out with some of the official duties at the carnival.

**HARMONY DAY**

Harmony Day, 21 March, celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. Students are asked to dress in cultural costumes and to bring different kinds of food for a special morning tea.

The theme for Harmony Day 2016 is **our diversity is our strength.** This theme will be celebrated in all classrooms during the day.

**ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL NEWS**

We had a successful group ride to school day on Friday 4 March, National Ride2School Day. 26 students participated in the group event and many other students actively travelled to school. In the group event, students met at the Ansford St park and rode bikes, scootered or walked to school as a group. Thanks to the parents Mr Mac and OSHC for assisting with the morning. The Senior 1 and Senior 2 students did a great job helping the younger students and doing the passport stamps. Students who rode today were rewarded with a prize from the BCC Active School Travel program.

**CHAPPY NEWS**

Last week, along with Nexus Care and Carolyn from my Local Chaplaincy Committee, we hosted a delicious afternoon tea to get to know the parents of Somerset Hills. It was lovely to meet some of you and connect with families.

Just as a reminder, I am at school on a Thursday and if you’d like to contact me about anything, the best way to do that is via email on beverleyb@chappy.org.au.

Raising children can be a tough job and discipline is one of the most important parts of parenting. It’s about keeping our kids safe, making them social and enhancing their chances of success.

This is always easier at certain stages of our children’s lives and certainly some kids have temperaments that make discipline more challenging.

Michael Grose has a website: parentingideas.com.au, he has written a number of books and has some great tips and advice on his website. Here are a few principles that he says we should keep in mind as we teach our children to behave well.

1. Try and avoid the first impulse when kids misbehave. It is important to change ourselves, if we are going to change our children’s misbehaviour. In other words what can I do differently, that may get a better response out of my children.

2. The more time I spend teaching my kids to behave well, the less time I’ll have to spend responding to their bad behaviour.

3. Kids thrive from good A-grade attention from their parents. Make sure to spend 1-on-1 time with your kids every day.

4. When we are tired we revert to our lowest level of parenting techniques. The key to this is to take good care of ourselves so that we are able to practise better techniques when we aren’t stressed.

And in light of the challenges of disciplining our children remember:

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

Frederick Douglass

**YEARS 5 AND 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION 2016**

Letters have been sent to all Year 5 and 6 students regarding the 2016 Canberra Excursion. Please note that the invitation is NOT confined to the Senior 2 students as the letter may appear to suggest. Year 5 students in Senior 1 and their parents are also welcome to attend.

Slips confirming attendance on the excursion, together with the NON-REFUNDABLE deposit, are due at the Administration Office by 3:00 pm on Wednesday 17 March.

A detailed itinerary and list of requirements will be sent home in Term 2. Please note that FULL PAYMENT for the excursion will be required by Wednesday 15 June.

**BOOK CLUB**

The March Scholastic Book Club brochures/order forms have been distributed to all classes. Forms and payment are due back on Friday 11 March.

**FAMILY AND CHILD CONNECT**

Family and Child Connect is a FREE service which can help you with the challenges of parenthood. They will talk with you, provide general information and connect you to local services which can help. There are also specialist family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

You can contact Family and Child Connect by calling 13 32 64.